

THE CHILDREN

Alexander Hornemann

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Alexander, the younger of the two Hornemann brothers, was born on 31 May 1936. His family nickname was Lexje. The Hornemanns lived in Eindhoven in the Netherlands.

Alexander's father, Philip Carel Hornemann, worked at Philips from 1925. After the German Wehrmacht occupied the Netherlands, Hornemann was one of 100 Jewish employees at Philips who had to work in the company's Jewish "special department", which was set up in late 1941. His wife Elisabeth went into hiding on a farm together with Alexander, while her older son Eduard hid on another farm. When the Jewish employees at Philips were deported to the Vught concentration camp in 1943, Elisabeth Hornemann followed her husband with both of their sons. On 3 June 1944, the Hornemann family was transported from Vught to Auschwitz, where Elisabeth Hornemann died of typhoid fever in September. Alexander and Eduard were transferred to the children's hut. Shortly before the liberation of Auschwitz, Philip Carel Hornemann was taken to the Dachau concentration camp and was then put on a transport to Sachsenhausen, during which he died on 21 February 1945. Alexander Hornemann was taken to the Neuengamme concentration camp on 28 November 1944 and murdered on 20 April 1945 here on Bullenhusser Damm aged 8.

Ans van Staveren, Elisabeth Hornemann's sister and Alexander and Eduard's aunt, was the only member of the family to survive. She managed to remain in hiding until the liberation of the Netherlands. For a long time, van Staveren hoped her two nephews would return. It was not until 1979 that she learned of their fate. Van Staveren remained in touch with the Children of Bullenhusser Damm association until her death in 2008.

A street in the Hamburg district of Burgwedel is named after Alexander and Eduard Hornemann.

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Alexander Hornemann circa 1938.

Ans van Staveren, Alexander and Eduard Hornemann's aunt, described her younger nephew as a very cheerful and jolly child who had been full of larks from early on. She said his plan had been to be a chef at a hotel.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 2002-47*



Alexander Hornemann

Elisabeth Hornemann with Alexander and Eduard, undated.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 2002-43*



Alexander Hornemann

Philip Carel Hornemann with his sons Eduard (top) and Alexander on Scheveningen beach in 1938.

Philip “Flip” Hornemann had a well-paid job with Philips. According to Ans van Staveren, he liked to take his family to the seaside for the holidays, where he would spend a lot of time with his sons.

*Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,
Günther Schwarberg collection, 2002-40*



